

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 AGRE-00 USIA-06 AID-05 AF-10 ARA-10

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FODAG

PASS USDA AND AID

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: FA, WFC, OCON

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, FOURTH SESSION

REFS: A) STATE 69982; B) ROME 5541

1. HARRY WLATERS OF WFC GAVE FODAG COPY OF PAPER ON THEIR PROPOSAL O
N

FOOD PRODUCTION THEY GAVE ROME REPS FROM DENMARK, UK, FRANCE AND
NETHERLANDS. HANNAH WILL ALSO GIVE PAPER TO HEADS OF FAO,
UNDP AND WORLD BANK. IF RESPONSE TO PROPOSAL IS FAVORABLE
(AS WAS U.S. AND CANADA) THEN WFC WILL HAVE FURTHER DISCUSSION
WITH LDC'S INVOLVED, NAMELY BANGLADESH, HONDURUS, SENEGAL,
SUDAN AND INDONESIA. IF AL OF THESE GO WELL, WFC WOULD THEN
TRY TO SET UP MEETING IN BELLAGIO
REFERRED TO IN REFTEL (B) FOR EARLY MAY. WFC EXPECTS TO DECIDE
IF THEY WILL HAVE MEETING BY EARLY APRIL.

2. FOLLOWING ARE THE PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN PAPER REFERRED TO IN
PARA 1 ABOVE. THE FULL TEXT IS BEING POUCHED IO-AGR BYRNES
AND FAS/USDA HALLQUIST: QUOTE
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1. THAT FOUR OR FIVE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR FIVE DEVEL-
OPED COUNTRIES AND THREE OR FOUR OF THE MAJOR DEVELOPMENT
AGENCIES AGREE TO UNDERTAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO DETERMINE
TOGETHER HOW BEST TO ACHEIVE THE FOOD AND NUTRITION OBJEC-
TIVES OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND THE FOOD COUNCIL
WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE PARTICIPATING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES;

2. THAT THE EFFORT WOULD BE INITIATED AND DIRECTED BY THE PARTICIPATING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WITH ADEQUATE AND EFFECTIVE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY PARTICIPATING DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES; AND THAT IT WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD TO BE EXPERIMENTAL AT THE OUTSET, WITH EMPHASIS BEING PLACED ON HOW THE OBJECTIVES COULD BE REACHED AND THE KINDS OF COMPROMISES REQUIRED;

3. PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AND AGENCIES WOULD AGREE TO COORDINATE THEIR ACTIVITIES BUT ACTIONS IN A SPECIFIC DEVELOPING COUNTRY BE LED BY IT AND DRAW SELECTIVELY ON ONE OR MORE AGENCIES AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES;

4. GROUPS FORMED UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE COUNTRY AND SUPPORTED BY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND AGENCIES WOULD SEEK TO DETERMINE, ON THE BASIS OF EXISTING FOOD AND NUTRITION PLANS AND OTHER RELEVANT STUDIES:

A) THE BASIC DIMENSIONS OF A MINIMUM ADEQUATE FOOD AND NUTRITION STRATEGY FOR THE COUNTRY
B) THE PROJECT AND PROGRAMMES CONSISTENT WITH THIS STRATEGY WHICH THE PARTICIPANTS AGREE WARRANT IMMEDIATE SUPPORT;

C) THE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES WHICH REQUIRE FURTHER TECHNICAL PREPARATION AND HOW THIS COULD BE DONE;
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D) THE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES WHICH INVOLVE THE RECONCILIATION OF POLICY ISSUES AND HOW THIS COULD BE DONE, AND
E) THE ADDITIONAL AREAS, IF ANY, WHICH PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES ARE LACKING AND THE NECESSARY ACTIONS NEEDED TO PREPARE THEM.

5. PARTICIPATING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD NEED TO INITIATE THE EFFORT AND INDICATE THEIR COMMITMENT BY THE ASSIGNMENT OF AN ADEQUATE GROUP OF OFFICIALS AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL;

6. PARTICIPATING DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WOULD NEED TO AGREE TO THE UNDERTAKING AND TO INDICATE THEIR COMMITMENT BY PROVIDING ADEQUATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, BY INVOLVING APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AND BY INDICATING THEIR WILLINGNESS TO GIVE PRIORITY INVESTMENT AND POLICY SUPPORT TO PROPOSALS EMERGING FROM THE UNDERTAKING;

7. PARTICIPATING AGENCIES WOULD NEED TO AGREE TO THE UNDERTAKING AND TO INDICATE THEIR COMMITMENT BY PROVIDING ADEQUATE TECHNICAL SUPPORT, BY INVOLVING APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS, AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE SUPPORT TO PROPOSALS EMERGING FROM THE UNDERTAKING;

8. THE RESULTS OF THE UNDERTAKING - WHICH MAY REQUIRE 6 TO 18 MONTHS - WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO EXISTING CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY, OR SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNTRY, FOR THE PURPOSE OF GAINING INVESTMENT AND POLICY SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS AGREED TO;

9. PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES WOULD NEED TO AGREE TO GIVE THESE PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS PRIORITY CONSIDERATION WITHIN THESE CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND SEEK THE NECESSARY RESOURCE COMMITMENTS AND POLICY AND STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENTS CALLED FOR WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY CONCERNED;

10. TO THE EXTENT THAT EXISTING CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND RESOURCE AVAILABILITIES DO NOT PERMIT EARLY ACTION ON THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS PRESENTED, THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AND AGENCIES WOULD NEED TO AGREE TO SEEK THE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND POLICY SUPPORT;

11. IF MAJOR POLICY AND RESOURCE ISSUES EMERGE FROM THE UNDERTAKING WHICH ARE BROADLY CHARACTERISTIC OF IMPEDIMENTS TO FOOD PRODUCTION AND NUTRITION IMPROVEMENT IN A NUMBER OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, OR ARE BROADLY REFLECTIVE OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROBLEMS RELEVANT TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' FOOD AND NUTRITION NEEDS, THESE ISSUES COULD BE PRESENTED TO THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL FOR RESOLUTION;

12. IF THE UNDERTAKING DEMONSTRATES ITS USEFULNESS, AND IF OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH TO FOLLOW IT, THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MIGHT CONSIDER PLAYING A CATALYTIC ROLE IN BRINGING SUITABLE GROUPS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, DONORS AND AGENCIES TOGETHER TO CONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF EXTENDING THE MECHANISM BEYOND THE ORIGINAL PARTICIPANTS.

IF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS AMONG CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES INDICATE A POSITIVE INTEREST IN THIS OR A SIMILAR PROPOSAL, THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SECRETARIAT COULD FACILITATE THE PROCESS BY BRINGING THE CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES TOGETHER SO THAT THE PROPOSAL COULD BE MORE FULLY EXPLORED AND A MORE SUBSTANTIAL REPORT MADE TO THE COUNCIL. END QUOTE
GARDNER

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